

North School holds awards day



North School held its awards program for the third nine weeks grading period last Wednesday.

Principal Pals - Tyler Ross, Ashley Witherspoon, Tedrick Wilson, Avery Dahl, Ashley Johnson, Jasmine Roberts, Casey Ellis, Michelle Jones, Katie Herndon, Courtney Tate, Kim Dorsey, Clarisa Hagner, Miles Galloway, Wesley Dixon, Christin Iroegbu, Sadler Stowe, Katie Cobb, Jessica Kanoy, Jenni Wilson.

Terrific Kids - Kathy Martin, Victoria Martin, Hanna Clark, Jackie Northcott, Amber Brackett, Amber Sisk, Kristen Cogdill, Maya Ingram, Alex Hartgrove, Justin Soos, Jennifer Mull, MEGAN Smith, Kyra Alexander, Jeffrey Dulude, Andrew Rosebeck, Andy Siravanta, Ben Hart, Crystal Bryson, Jarryd Henderson, Alex Fields, Adam Boone, Jaimie Brackett, Charles Bentley, Lucas Robinson, Heather Camp, Casey Cogdill, Tricia Walker, Selena Owens, Megan Dixon, Jordan Reese, Crystal McClain, Jamie Southards, Jamie Baisden, Jacky Hagner, Kim Allgeyer, Eileen Parker, Josh Ethers, Shontay Strickland.

High honors - Kyra Alexander, Amber Baxley, Jennifer Cole, Casey Ellis, Cortni Hulon, Sarah Russell, Courtney Tate, Chad Blanton, Ben Hart, Amber Collins, Danilo Gomez, Mean Burton, Alex Fields, Jaimie Brackett, Tommy Malaythong, Casey Shirey, C.J. Cook, Clarisa Hagner, Brandon McClain, Susie Potter, Christa Heath, Michael Mendoza, Tyler Wyatt, Lindsey Hawes, Brad Moffitt, Brittany Ramey, Donna Tackett, Eric Tesenair, Alex Dahl, Amy Ridings, Charlie Witherspoon, Harrison Bumgardner, Stephen Hall, Kevin Tsui, Charlie Jones, Elizabeth Robbins, Jenni Wilson.

Honors - Tayler Deaton, Ben Galloway, Joel Guyton, Josh Hall, Josh Jones, Kristen Parker, Josh Williams, Larry Dean Benton, Shane Hall, Brad Looper, Megan Lowery, Austin Gardner, Josh Treece, Ryan Swink, Crystal Bryson, Jimmy Kennedy, Chris Arrowood, Brittany Tate, Whitney Shalash, Elizabeth Canipe, Chad Chapple, Katie Cook, Darius Feaster, Brianna Grant, Jennifer Lineberger, Angelica Mercer, John Witherspoon, Ryan Bolin, Michelle Lackey, Morgan Mayer, Brooke Stewart, Erin Summitt, Daniel Wilson, Laura Cloninger, Justin McComas, Mandy Parker, Ches Robbins, Lucas Robinson, Jennifer Seay, Jessica Ward, Ruby Whitson, Jessica Bowen, Heather Camp, Casey Cogdill, Miles Galloway, Nikki Moore, Ashley Patel, Danielle Short, Becky Sisk, Danielle Watkins, Steffie Collis, Wesley Dixon, Tuqura Hart, Selena Owens, Andrew Shergill, Kevin Smith, Tricia Walker, Brian Black, Megan Dixon, Christin Iroegbu, Stacey McSwain, Jordan Reese, Jordan Van Dyke, Chris Allgeyer, Melissa Bishop, Brandon Deese, Matthew Harbison, Jessica Philbeck, Joseph Short, Sadler Stowe, Deshand Hopper,



OWENS TIGERS - Top Tigers in Mrs. Owens first grade at North School are, front row, left to right, Brooke Avery, Alex Hartgrove, Ashley Johnson. Second row, Justin Soos, Kaitlin Teague, Joshua Vassey. Back row, Brittany Walker, Alvin Watkins, Mrs. Williams.



BLANTON'S TIGERS - Top Tigers in Mrs. Blanton's first grade at North School are, front row, left to right, Haley Chandler, Kristen Cogdill, Avery Dahl. Second row, Tempett Holland, Maggie Hall, Laura Hollifield, Maya Ingram. Back row, Mrs. Blanton, Erica Jackson, Farren Mercer, Asia Parker.

Dustin Wilson, Katie Cobb, Lora Johnsonbaugh, Sam McGinnis, Marqika McSwain, Stacy Welch, Jessica Spencer, Jameson Parker, Erin McCauley, Jessica Kanoy, Andrew Dahl, Matthew Bryant, Josh Ethers, Heath Foster, Landon Hulsey, Marty Malaythong, Blake Ridings, Ashton Teague, Thanou Thammavongsa.

(Top Tigers)
Kindergarten - Tyler Ross, Kathy Martin, Victoria Martin, Burns Newsome, Crystal Wye, Hogan Sellers, Jordan Burnette, Avan Fields, Brett Keeter, Mary Kathryn Lynn, Alice Quaneudone, Trisha Owensby, Summer Putnam, Ashley Witherspoon, Jackie Northcott,

Hanna Clark, Tedrick Wilson, Amber Brackett, Amber Sisk, Brittany Baucom, Casey Burnette, Tyler Dixon, Bradley Gilliam, Destiny Pittman, Tyler Prow, Elizabeth Russell, Joshua Young.

First grade - Kristin Cogdill, Haley Chandler, Avery Dahl, Tempett Holland, Maggie Hall, Laura Hollifield, Maya Ingram, Erica Jackson, Farren Mercer, Asia Parker, Brooke Avery, Alex Hartgrove, Ashley Johnson, Justin Soos, Kaitlin Teague, Joshua Vasey, Brittany Walker, Alvin Watkins, Dymon Adams, Lashea Bowen, Johnnie Johnston, Jennifer Mull, Kiara Myles, Jasmine Roberts, Megan Smith, Vernon Davis.
(Good citizenship)

Second grade - Kyra Alexander, Amber Baxley, Jennifer Cole, Tayler Deaton, Casey Ellis, Brittany Falls, Kristen Parker, Jeff Dulude, Michelle Jones, Andrew Rosenbeck, Andy Siravanta, Sarah Russell, Jessica Parker, Amber Collins, Tiffany Accor, Chad Blanton, Ben Hart, Courtney Tate, Brittney Odems, Crystal Bryson, Whitney Shalash, Austin Gardner, Chris Arrowood, John Treece, Ryan Swink, Megan Burton, Danilo Gomez, Shararea Burris, Elizabeth Canipe, Chad Chapple, Katie Cooks, Alex Fields, Brianna Grant, Jarryd Henderson, Katie Herndon, Jennifer Lineberger, Zach Poole, John Witherspoon.

Third grade - Kelsey Adams, Ryan Bolin, Adam Boone, Jaimie Brackett, Emily Canipe, Kim Dorsey, Craig Huffstetter, Tommy Malaythong, Morgan Mayer, Brad McKee, Casey Shirey, Bradly Slayton, Erin Summitt, Jonathan Todd, Daniel Wilson, Charles Bentley, Laura Cloninger, C.J. Cook, Clarisa Hagner, Jennifer McSwain, Ashley Melton, Josh Moore, Susie Potter, Lucas Robinson, Jennifer Seay, Ruby Whitson, Jessica Bowen, Heather Camp, Casey Cogdill, Miles Galloway, Christa Heath, Nikki Moore, Stacey Oliver, Ashley Patel, Lee Roberts, Becky Sisk, Danielle Watkins, Tyler Wyatt.

Fourth grade - Ja'Colby Ward, Patricia Avery, Steffie Collis, Wesley Dixon, Tuqura Hart, Elisabeth McDaniel, Selena Owens, Megan Richards, Andrew Shergill, Kevin Smith,

Carrie Thammavongsa, Tricia Walker, Josh White, Jennifer Baxley, Megan Dixon, Lindsey Hawes, Christin Iroegbu, Elijah Lewis, Stacey McSwain, Mike Mull, Anika Patel, Brittany Ramey, Jordan Reese, Donna Tackett, Lacey Short, Eric Tesenair, Chris Allgeyer, James Bigger, Latara Barrow, Melissa Bishop, Samanta Bryson, John Currence, Brandon Deese, Anthony Ervin, Crystal Feely, Deshanda Hopper, Crystal McClain, Dwayne Ramsey, Amy Ridings, Joseph Short, Jamie Southards, Sadler Stowe, Charlie Witherspoon, Adam Smart.

Fifth grade - Jamie Baisden, Carey Bentley, Dymetra Bigger, Harrison Bumgardner, Ashley Bolen, Katie Cobb, Jackie Hagner, Lora Johnsonbaugh, Marqika McSwain, Christian Todd, Kim Allgeyer, Matthew Bryant, Michelle Dorsey, Jessica Kanoy, Jameson Parker, Eileen Parker, Jennifer Blair, Ty Curtis, Sally Denton, Josh Ethers, Heath Foster, Chris Hancock, Landon Hulsey, Charlie Jones, Mary Malaythong, Tasha Moss, Elizabeth Robbins, Tracie Slayton, Shontay Strickland, Ashton Teague, Thanou Thammavongsa, JJ Walker, Chip Wilson, Jenni Wilson.

Art awards - Steven Grant, Wes Dixon.

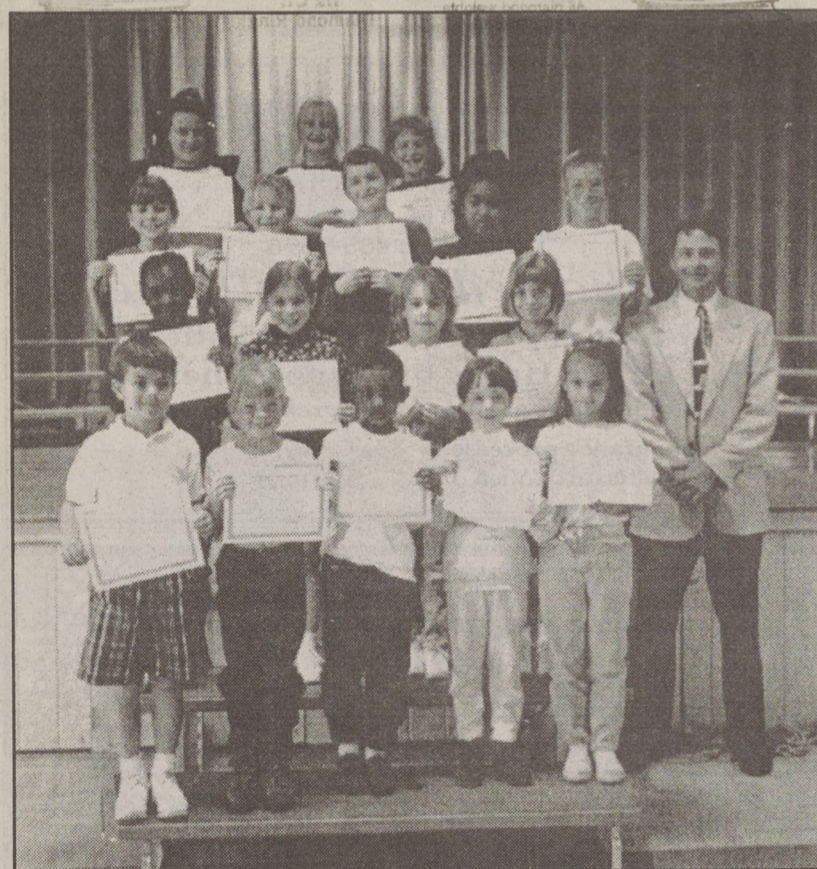
Reading - Tommylee Brown, Kristen Cauby.

Noteworthy - Brooklyn Roberts, Miles Galloway.

Bus good citizenship - Elijah Lewis, Jaimie Brackett, Sara Boone, Shontay Strickland.



TERRIFIC KIDS - Terrific Kids for North School are pictured above with Rev. Harold Schwantes of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club. Top photo, first row, left to right, Kathy Martin, Victoria Martin, Hanna Clark, Jackie Northcott, Amber Brackett, Amber Sisk. Second row, Kristen Cogdill, Maya Ingram, Alex Hartgrove, Justin Soos, Jennifer Mull, Megan Smith. Back row, Kyra Alexander, Andrew Rosenbeck, Andy Siravanta, Ben Hart, Crystal Bryson, Jarryd Henderson, Alex Fields. Bottom photo, front row, Adam Boone, Jaimie Brackett, Charles Bentley, Lucas Robinson, Heather Camp. Second row, Casey Cogdill, Tricia Walker, Selena Owens, Jordan Reese, Crystal McClain, Jamie Southards. Back row, Jamie Baisden, Jacky Hagner, Kim Allgeyer, Eileen Parker, Josh Ethers, Shontay Strickland.



PRINCIPAL'S PALS - Principal's Pals for the third nine weeks grading period at North School are pictured above. Front row, left to right, Tyler Ross, Ashley Witherspoon, Tedrick Wilson, Avery Dahl, Ashley Johnson. Second row, Jasmine Roberts, Casey Ellis, Michelle Jones, Courtney Tate, Principal Joey Hopper. Third row, Clarisa Hagner, Mile Galloway, Wesley Dixon, Christin Iroegbu, Sadler Stowe. Back row, Katie Cobb, Jessica Kanoy, Jenni Wilson.

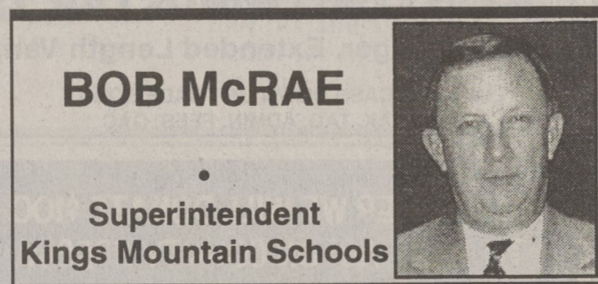
Excellent Schools Act would improve public schools

One of the most interesting pieces of legislation being considered by this year's General Assembly is referred to as the Excellent Schools Act. It is the centerpiece of Governor Hunt's efforts to improve our schools and enjoys the endorsement of both Speaker of the House Harold Brubaker and Senate Pro Team Marc Basnight. This kind of bipartisan support makes its passage more likely, and I am pleased with that.

I believe this is a well constructed bill which will, in total effect, be quite positive for our public schools. In today's column I would like to describe for you the basics of the bill and encourage you to promote its passage with our legislative delegation.

I - Efforts to raise student performance standards - The bill requires the State Board of Education to develop a comprehensive plan to raise student performance on reading, mathematics, and writing. The ABC's Plan of the State Board will be the linchpin of that work. It will also include work from the Standards and Accountability Commission of which Kings Mountain's Sam Houston is Executive Director.

II - Rigorous standards for entering the teaching profession - The bill promotes more rigorous standards for becoming a teacher including longer internships during the training period and



higher required scores on the National Teacher Examination. This is a sensitive spot in the bill. We are already facing shortages in many teaching areas. The NTE is a difficult examination. I don't oppose higher scoring requirements, however I do hope that we can consider alternative pathways if someone comes close but does not reach a required score. Perhaps, if someone is within 25 points of a required score, two years of successful teaching experience could substitute for the higher score.

III. Rigorous standards for continuing certification - The period of time during which teachers are initially certified, that is the time during which their certificate can be revoked for poor performance, would move from two to three

years. Continuing certification would receive more of a performance based emphasis with attention to scores on state required testing more important to that decision.

IV. Rigorous standards, evaluation, and support before career status is considered - The attainment of tenure by teachers would become more demanding. Probationary teachers would have to be evaluated at least four times per year as opposed to the current requirement of three. At least one of the evaluations would have to be by a teacher. It would take four years to obtain tenure as opposed to the current three.

V. Additional professional development opportunities and tougher standards for teachers with career status - The basic structure regarding the employment and dismissal of teachers would remain the same, however the process for dismissing a teacher with cause would be streamlined somewhat. The basic change, the dismissal process, replaces the old Professional Review Committee with a Case Manager system.

VI. A plan to attract and retain high quality teachers - This section involves a plan to significantly raise teacher salaries, the goal being the national average. Starting pay would be raised as would the entire teacher salary scale.

VII. Pay for exemplary performance/special as-

signments - This section compliments and strengthens the previous section. Reaching national average salaries should not imply doing it totally by an "across the board" concept. Teachers would be able to enhance their salaries in a variety of ways including the completion of a master's degree, the attainment of certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the attainment by their schools of growth standards under the ABC's plan, service to newly certified teachers as a mentor, additional pay for approved professional development, and additional pay for assuming additional responsibilities related to improving instruction.

VIII. Funds for computer systems - This piece of the bill would provide additional funding to help systems more fully implement their school technology plans.

It is good that such attention is being focused on promoting excellent schools in our state. This bill provides more emphasis for us than I have seen in several years. I hope the General Assembly will quickly move to pass it. We like to say that excellence is no accident. Our achievement of excellence can be made more manageable through the passage of this structured plan for school improvement.